

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 EB-11 AGR-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NEAE-00 RSR-01 /134 W
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P R 031400 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8307

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3481

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID, IS

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENTARY ON US AID BILL PROVISION FOR ISRAEL

1. FOLLOWING PARA HAS TEXT OF ARTICLE IN MAARIV (BY SEGEV, WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT) ON US AID BILL PROVISION FOR ISRAEL. YEDIOT AHARONOT HAS SHORTER, LESS- INFORMATIVE ARTICLE BY ITS CORRESPONDENT, WHILE DAVAR AND AL HAMISHMAR HAVE ONLY UPI BRIEFS.

2. QTE. US WISHES TO CUT BY HALF SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL (HEADLINE). THE US PROPOSED YESTERDAY TO CUT SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL AND TO INCREASE ASSISTANCE TO JORDAN. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE KENNETH RUSH SAID BEFORE SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE THAT

DURING PAST TWO YEARS ISRAEL' S FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION HAS IMPROVED STEADILY AND THAT HE BELIEVED THEREFORE THAT IT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO GRANT ISRAEL FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1 SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE OF \$25 MILLION. LAST YEAR, ISRAEL RECEIVED GRANT OF \$50 MILLION; AND CONGRESS APPROPRIATED ADDITIONAL \$50 MILLION TO JEWISH AGENCY IN US FOR ABSORPTION OF SOVIET JEWS. NEW FOREIGN AID BILL OF \$2.9 BILLION, FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR, DOES NOT INCLUDE APPROPRIATION FOR ABSORPTION OF SOVIET JEWS. ISRAEL WAS ADVISED IN ADVANCE OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT' S INTENTION TO CUT SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE BY HALF. AMERICAN AUTHORITIES SAID THAT THIS WAS DECIDED WITHIN FRAME OF GENERAL CUTS IN FOREIGN AID; AND THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS UNFRIENDLY ACT. IT WAS EMPHATICALLY
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THAT CUT CONSTITUTED ONLY ABOUT 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL ECONOMIC AND MILITARY CREDIT WHICH ISRAEL RECEIVES FROM US AND THAT GOVERNMENT PROPOSED TO RENEW FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR MILITARY CREDIT OF \$300 MILLION. IN ADDITION, ISRAEL WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO RECEIVE FOOD SURPLUSES FROM US, AND WILL BE GRANTED NEW HOUSING LOAN OF ABOUT \$100 MILLION. CONTRARY TO WASHINGTON'S CONTENTION, ISRAELI SOURCES EMPHASIZED THAT ALL THESE FORMS OF ASSISTANCE, WITH EXCEPTION OF THE SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE, ARE LOANS WHICH ISRAEL MUST REPAY; AND ADMINI-STRATIONS' S DECISION TO CUT SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE MEANS TRIMMING ONLY ASSISTANCE WHICH ISRAEL GETS WHICH EASES HER ECONOMIC BURDEN. OBSERVERS IN WASHINGTON MAINTAIN THAT ISRAEL' S FRIENDS IN CONGRESS MAY INITIATE COUNTERACTION WITH VIEW TO REINSTATING SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL BACK TO ITS FORMER LEVEL OF \$50 MILLION, IN VIEW OF MR. RUSH' S ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY THAT ADMINISTRATION PROPOSED RAISING SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE TO JORDAN FROM \$50 MILLION TO \$65 MILLION, AND DIRECT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO JORDAN FROM \$34 MILLION TO \$40 MILLION. UNQTE. ZURHELLEN

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